

LOCAL NEWS.

CITY COUNCIL.—A regular semi-monthly meeting of the City Council was held last night. For official proceedings see another column.

Board of Aldermen.—On the question of the adoption of the adverse report of the committee to amend the law relating to the office of Scavenger.

Mr. Seaton said he could not see why a bill should not pass. The present was a bill of great need on the part of the city, and this proposition to vote away \$200 could not meet his approval. He thought the office ought to be sold to the highest bidder. This \$200, if saved, would buy overcoats for the police, a bill to provide for which he understood would be introduced. He believed it was something that was essential and something that ought to be done.

Mr. Jamney said the adverse report was made on account of the work having been badly done under the old system. The Scavenger should be a bonded officer.

Mr. Markell endorsed the remarks of Mr. Jamney. The Scavenger attended to those who paid him and neglected those who could not pay—to the injury of the health of the city.

Mr. Seaton said that the Scavenger had certainly attended faithfully to the duties of his position in his (the speaker's) ward. He had seen the condition of things complained of existing years ago under a law similar to that now recommended by the committee. It occurred to his mind—speaking of Radical rule—that this was all very good—but it seemed to him that this report was to vote away the office into the hands of a certain party.

Mr. Jamney called him to order, as making personal allusions.

The President—"The gentleman will confine himself to the question."

Mr. Seaton further stated his opinions on the question.

Mr. French enquired what had been done with the question of deodorisers as connected with the above subject.

It was replied that no action had been taken. The petition of L. McKenzia, president of the W. & O. R. R., for right of way through certain streets, was read.

Mr. French was in favor of granting the petition, but thought it too broad in its scope. There was no limitation as to conditions or restraints. He thought that the railroad should be obliged to keep the streets in order, and in general terms that Council should impose the same conditions on this company as were imposed on the various other roads in the city.

The amendment as proposed by Mr. French was added to the bill, and it was then adopted. The bill allowing the construction of a street railroad was read.

Mr. Markell was opposed to exempting the proposed road from taxation. In the present condition of the city we needed all the taxes we could get—all the property we could lay our hands on.

Mr. French said that this was an experiment, and if we do not show it some encouragement it would hardly be prosecuted to a termination. Except this enterprise until it is seen whether or not it is to be a success.

Mr. French favored the passage of the bill. This was not an enterprise that would make the fortunes of the proprietors in a day. He thought it would be wise to exempt it from taxation.

Mr. Markell was willing to exempt for five years.

Mr. Seaton thought that exemption would encourage this enterprise, but suggested an amendment that no distinction should be made on the basis of race, color, or previous condition.

The amendment was adopted, and the bill as amended passed.

A communication from Dr. R. C. Powell, on the subject of furnishing prescriptions and physician's services to the poor, was read.

Mr. Jamney, from the committee to whom the communication had been referred, stated that the committee could make no recommendation; that common sense should govern the physicians in this matter.

Mr. French thought there ought to be some limit to the amount of money expended for medicines for the poor, as sometimes these bills were enormous. It was surely never intended that persons who made a competent living should come on the Corporation for free medical attention. He moved to refer it back to the committee.

Mr. Jamney repeated that common sense only could govern the physicians to the poor in this matter. If Dr. Powell had furnished prescriptions to the people he complained of, he had done the city a great injustice. It was his business to know who were the poor. The committee had called on the Mayor and that official said there was no law prescribing the duties of the physician of the poor.

Mr. French said if there was no law, it was time there should be one. If no duties are prescribed, if these officials can act precisely as they please, there is a rule should be made for their guidance. He moved to re-commit the report.

Mr. Jamney thought it should go to the committee on general laws, and it was so ordered. A resolution to repeal all laws relating to forestalling the market, was read.

Mr. French enquired what this resolution meant, has there been any grievance? He had heard of no complaints.

The President explained that the resolution arose, he thought, out of a difference between the hucksters and the Mayor. The former were, according to their statement, in the habit of purchasing provisions in the country to be delivered, as agreed upon. The Mayor had fined several for this action.

Mr. Markell did not think that the hucksters had been fined because they had purchased had been made. The difficulty was that they had gained by taking provisions from the country to be paid for at "market rates." This left the whole matter of the price to be paid subject to subsequent settlement—a clear forestalling, he thought.

The resolution was referred to the Committee on General Laws.

A bill of Geo. E. French for blank books furnished the city, was presented. Several items in this bill were discussed.

Mr. Markell enquired who had purchased these books, and by what authority; what were they for?

Mr. French replied that he supposed they were books for the permanent use of the city. Mr. Markell reiterated his question as to the authority for the purchase of these books, we had got into the condition of reckless expenditure once before, and it was time it was stopped, and the question was how to put a stop to it.

Mr. Seaton said that he was at the 4th Ward registration yesterday and heard the registrar say that the books were falling to pieces. He did not know that these were the books referred to.

Mr. Markell hoped the committee would enquire what these books were, what is this royal minute book? is it gilt edged? or for the royal family?

The clerk stated that the book alluded to by Mr. M. was a record book for the clerk of the Council. The others were for the registering of taxes.

Mr. Seaton still thought the matter should be investigated.

The Board then adjourned.

Common Council.—The Common Council had a meeting of considerable interest. A large number of members were in attendance, but the crowd outside the bar was much smaller than usual.

Mr. Wheat, from the committee appointed to procure suitable rooms for the meetings of the City Council, reported that he had seen Mr. Broders, the owner of the theatre building,

and had engaged American Hall in that building at the rate of \$100 a year. That a partition would have to be erected in that hall, and some other necessary repairs made, but that he thought the Council could occupy it in about two weeks.

Mr. Evans, from the committee appointed to obtain a registration place in the 4th Ward, reported that that committee had carried out its instructions.

The committee to whom had been referred the petition of oyster dealers and others for the compulsory use by boatmen of the State measure in the sale of oysters, reported, through Mr. Hopkins, that the purchasers of oysters have already a sufficient remedy by State law, and recommending no further action in the premises.

Mr. Wheat explained that there was no need of any legislation by the Council on the subject, as the law of the State was sufficient. Any one who desired could have that law enforced.

The chair said he did not think that Council could have two measures, one for potatoes, grain, &c., and another for oysters.

Mr. Smith urged that potatoes and the like were sold by the pound. He never heard of weighing oysters.

Mr. Hopkins did not know who would pay the inspector, some might be willing to do so, others were not, and he had not understood how this difficulty could be adjusted.

Mr. Smith contended that in Washington no oyster could be sold at all except by the hands of commission dealers. He said when the oysters were high dealers seldom got more than three pecks to a bushel, when they were low decent measure was given.

Mr. Wheat did not doubt that oysters were often sold by scant measure, but the Corporation was not in fault for that.

Mr. Neale expressed his views, saying that as now sold, boatmen saved 25 bushels in 100. The President read the law in relation to weights and measures, to show that the city could have but one measure.

The report of the committee was not adopted—five voting in the affirmative, and six in the negative.

Mr. Pinn moved to recommit.

Mr. Wheat would be glad if the subject was recommitted, to have some definite instructions.

Mr. Pinn moved that the committee report a bill making the clerk of the market Inspector of oysters.

Mr. Smith moved to amend the amendment by authorizing the committee to appoint an Inspector.

Mr. Hopkins said such a law would be useless, because unconstitutional. No one could be made to pay the inspector.

The amendment was lost, and the report was recommitted with instructions to the committee to report a bill providing for the appointment of an oyster inspector, with authority to collect his fees from purchasers.

A communication from the Mayor, on providing food for the poor, was referred to the committee on poor, without debate.

A number of bills against the Alms house having been read.

Mr. Shim urged that if these supplies were purchased in gross by a committee, much money would be saved. He moved a reference of the bills to the committee on the poor and that in future all supplies be purchased by the committee on the poor.

Mr. Wheat urged an amendment requiring the Superintendent to report his bills once a month. The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. Hughes introduced the following bill:

AS Act to promote and encourage manufactures in the city of Alexandria.

Whereas, the city of Alexandria, possessing manufacturing facilities in an eminent degree, but which are rendered nugatory by an unwise and illiberal policy of taxation; therefore,

Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the Board of Aldermen and Common Council of Alexandria, That on and after the passage of this act any person, firm or corporation that shall establish any manufacturing business within the limits of this city shall be exempt from all taxation on the part of the city for the period of ten years from the passage of this act.

Sec. 2. All acts or parts of acts in conflict or which are repugnant to this act are hereby repealed.

Sec. 3. This act shall be in force from its passage.

Mr. Wheat said that ten years was too long. He would vote for three years.

Mr. Moore moved to refer to the committee on finance.

Mr. Hughes did not think three years was long enough to establish a manufactory. In Wilmington, Massachusetts a useful lesson, except in good order, and in no case charge for one passenger more than five cents for a ride one way over the entire length of the road, and we shall have some idea of the advantages of a generous and hospitable policy.

This wonderful growth, common to all localities adopting the same policy of inviting capital and skilled labor, renders a useful lesson, except in good order, and in no case charge for one passenger more than five cents for a ride one way over the entire length of the road, and we shall have some idea of the advantages of a generous and hospitable policy.

Mr. Hughes desired to know if the cotton factory was not now exempt from taxation.

Mr. Hopkins had had the idea of reporting such a bill, but an examination of the State constitution had convinced him that such an act would be unconstitutional.

Mr. Clagett favored the bill. Our mechanics had now to go to foreign cities to get work; if manufacturers were here they could find work at home.

Mr. Pinn wanted to know if the Cotton Factory was taxed. The constitution required that all species of property should be taxed, equally, but it did not say that every species of property should be taxed. He continued expatiating upon the advantages of Alexandria, but we were at old ride now and unless care was taken we would soon be in the marsh. He favored the bill. The constitution did not prevent the bill from being passed; let it be passed and then try it be constitutional.

Mr. Wheat—"You are of the party that made that law. Can you tell me how to get around it?"

Mr. Pinn said that if the Mount Vernon Cotton Factory could be exempted, other factories might be exempted.

Mr. Wheat explained that the Cotton Factory was exempted before the adoption of the present constitution of the State.

Mr. Pinn thought that in that case the adoption of the constitution would require that a tax be imposed on that factory.

Mr. Wheat—"That would be an express fact law."

Mr. Hopkins quoted the constitution of the State as showing that no such exemption could be made.

Mr. Smith did not see that the constitution interfered with the bill of Mr. Hughes.

Mr. Clagett thought that the framers of that constitution did not intend to prevent the Council from doing its best to help the town.

Mr. Rishell said it was evident there were differences of opinion he would move to refer the subject to a special committee.

Mr. Hopkins thought the bill ought to be referred to the Attorney of the Corporation.

The bill after further debate was referred.

Mr. Wheat introduced a resolution for a special committee to obtain the colored school-houses from Gen. O. O. Howard upon paying the debts due on them, and said that he understood that these school-houses belonged to the Freedmen's Bureau.

Mr. Pinn—"They belong to the colored people of Alexandria."

Mr. Wheat replied that Mr. Seaton had said that it was the intention of the Freedmen's Bureau to give the houses for colored schools as soon as the debt was paid. He proposed to pay the debt.

Mr. Pinn understood that these school-

houses belonged to the colored people of Alexandria. The colored people had bought the ground they stand on with the understanding that when the ground was paid for they would be conveyed to the trustees of the colored people of which Mr. Seaton was chairman.

Mr. Wheat asked Mr. Pinn whether he would object to the city paying the debt and taking the school-houses on a trust to be forever devoted to colored schools. He thought that as the colored people of Alexandria had schools provided for them by the white people they ought to be willing to make the cost as light as possible.

Mr. Pinn was not willing to surrender the houses.

Mr. Wheat said that if the city had still to pay 600 dollars rent for these houses, he would move to change the schools to cheaper locations.

Mr. Pinn did not propose to vote for turning over school houses in which he was himself interested. If these houses were turned over would make the colored people provide school houses beside paying their proportion of the school tax.

Mr. Wheat was surprised that the gentleman had alluded to the subject of taxation. 99 out of every hundred dollars of school tax was collected from the white people. The colored schools were not filled with pupils; the colored children were not willing to pay the \$1 school tax that was required as a requisite to admission.

Mr. Pinn said that the colored people paid taxes equal to the white men in proportion to their ability. The colored people did not all understand the matter about the school tax. The Constitution intended the schools to be free and the Legislature required a tax to be paid before a child was allowed to attend. As to colored schools always using these school houses, he did not know that "word" would always be used. He did not propose to have that word "colored" kept always in the law. He expected to see the day that the law would consider all as men, and have "no white" and "no colored" on the statute book.

The resolution of Mr. Wheat was agreed to.

The report of the special committee to whom had been referred the petition of the Alexandria Passenger Railway Company for a right of way through the city, adopted by the Board of Aldermen, was received from that Board and read as follows:

The special committee to which was referred the petition of M. D. Corse and others, for the privilege of building and running a street railroad through King street and several other streets of this city, has considered said petition and recommends granting the prayer thereof. Your committee believe it good policy to give a hospitable entertainment to all such improvements, and would permit anybody to build railroads anywhere on payment of all costs and damages without aid or contribution from the city, or its council, or towns. Individual interests and enterprise may be safely trusted in these matters, and will best judge what improvements will prove profitable. We would rejoice to see the State encourage such enterprises, and to see persons as New England. It may be well to look for a moment at the increase in wealth and material progress of localities where the greatest freedom and encouragement has been given to such enterprises. The city of Boston, for example, contains 250,000 inhabitants, or about one-fifth the population of Virginia, is one of the greatest centres of both railroad and manufacturing industry in the U. S. And we see by the same census that the assessed valuation of Boston for personal property existing in 1870, was \$100,000,000, while that of our entire State, real and personal, was only about 300,000,000. Add to this that Boston is a creditor city as to other localities, while Virginia is a debtor State to a large amount, and we shall have some idea of the advantages of a generous and hospitable policy.

This wonderful growth, common to all localities adopting the same policy of inviting capital and skilled labor, renders a useful lesson, except in good order, and in no case charge for one passenger more than five cents for a ride one way over the entire length of the road, and we shall have some idea of the advantages of a generous and hospitable policy.

The only conditions we would impose are that the company shall make the grade of their road to correspond with the street grade, and keep the distance of 18 inches each side thereof in good order, and in no case charge for one passenger more than five cents for a ride one way over the entire length of the road, and we shall have some idea of the advantages of a generous and hospitable policy.

In behalf of the committee.

JOHN C. UNDERWOOD, Chairman.

Mr. Hopkins doubted whether the city had power under the Constitution to exempt the railroad from taxation.

Mr. Smith said that the gentleman who wrote that report was one of the framers of the Constitution of the State. He knew that he was one of the "smarter" men in the State, and he knew what the Constitution meant. He (Mr. S.) was in favor of adopting the recommendation of the report.

Mr. Shim called for the re-reading of the report. It was done.

Mr. Shim would not vote for some portions of the report. He agreed with the idea that all railroads should be treated alike, but could not agree that this railroad should be free, and the others be taxed. As to the amendment about "race and color," the laws of the United States were ample on this subject, and it was no use for the Council to go into politics on a railroad law.

Mr. S. then considered the references of the report to other cities. Baltimore not only taxed the proprietors of the railroad, but laid a special tax of one cent on each passenger to establish parks.

Mr. Pinn thought that the provision relative to race and color, was provided. It was true that the civil rights bill provided for equal rights, but a colored man had not the same privileges as a white man on the O. & A. R. R., nor W. & A. R. R. Under the civil rights bill he could take the case to court, but that involved much trouble and expense. He himself had not been allowed to travel as white men did on the O. & A. R. R., and he added "I believe I am as white as any man in this house." He took his action, but what did he recover? Nothing.

Mr. Wheat said this provision would give colored people no more rights or remedies than they now had.

Mr. Clagett said that if a gentleman did not want to ride with him, he did not desire to thrust himself upon him. He never went where he was not wanted, but when the car was full, he wanted the right to take a seat in another.

Mr. Hopkins thought this bill had better be referred to the Corporation attorney.

It was moved that the amendment be stricken out and the bill then referred.

Mr. Pinn urged the retention of the amendment. He was not like Mr. Clagett. If he paid his fare, he wanted to ride in such car as he chose, and expected to go to the ladies' car if his wife was with him.

The report was referred.

A communication from the city school Superintendent having been read.

Mr. Hopkins explained that the school Board would soon receive \$2,500 from the Peabody fund and would build a school house with it, if the city would furnish them a portion of the Court House lot.

The Board then adjourned.

RAIN.—We have had cloudy weather, and last night a fine rain, which was much wanted.

THE NEW POLITICAL ORGANIZATION.—A meeting of the "Reform Club" of this city was held last night in the third story of Muir's Hall. There were about sixty persons present, including some five or six of Radical proclivities.

At 8 o'clock, the President, F. R. Windsor, called the meeting to order, when

Wm. H. Beck said at the last meeting of the organization it had been generally understood that the first business to come before the next meeting of the party would be the nomination of candidates for the Senate and House of Delegates, but from conversations with many of the members it had been deemed inexpedient to take such action at present. He, therefore, moved that the nomination of candidates be postponed.

Col. Seva inquired if the conversation alluded to by Mr. Beck was the sense of the entire party. He did not deem such a step definite.

Mr. Beck said he would like to hear the motion discussed. The Reform party had waited upon several prominent gentlemen, who endorsed their platform, but declined any nomination. He wanted to keep up the organization of the party; but, in his opinion, it would be better to defer making any nominations until next spring. The people of Virginia were looking for relief from the next Legislature, and would evidently look in vain; consequently the Reform party should ever be ready when called on, and believed that by pursuing a proper course, it would control the vote of the city at no distant day.

John T. Armstrong was in favor of making nominations, as it kept up the strength of the party. Suppose the candidates should be defeated, did not the nomination of them show the vitality of the organization? He referred to the election of Isaac Buckingham as Mayor of the city, in 1868, and made some comparisons, and said the Conservative Convention had acted in opposition to the will of their party, and that the last Legislature had perpetrated a monstrous fraud upon the people of the State by passing the funding bill. If Judge Thomas would guarantee to oppose such wholesale frauds, he would cheerfully vote for him, but would not vote for those E. Taylor "any way you could fix it"—he had been found wanting. He was particularly hard on the Radical nominees, turning them stupid, ignorant men, who knew no more about going to the Legislature than so many cats! He spoke for some time on the financial condition of the State, quoting many things uttered by Mr. Daniels, one of the Radical candidates for the State Senate, and said the Legislature had been bought up by New Yorkers. He was not sure the Reformers would elect their candidates, nor was he sure they would be defeated. Neither the Conservative nor Radical parties would support their respective nominees, and this Reform party would eventually speak out at Richmond. He referred to some independent candidates in other counties, and colored many of their assertions. No convention he said should bind him to support certain men.

Rudolph Massey—"How about the Radical party?"

Mr. Armstrong—"It shows itself. A more damnable disgusting assemblage never met. However, both parties are actuated with the same stick."

W. H. Beck said he had always favored making nominations; but had canvassed around, and had concluded it unadvisable; but, at the same time he wanted his motion discussed so the sense of the meeting could be ascertained. If the party made nominations, he should support them, if nobody else did.

Col. Seva made some remarks, urging unity.

W. F. Gould thought it inexpedient to make nominations at present. The club could meet once a month and talk over things generally.

Mr. Armstrong said it was the wish of the party to do so, he would cheerfully acquiesce; but, at the same time, wanted it distinctly understood that he did not withdraw any of his "points." He believed the party would make a good run.

The motion to defer the nominations was then put and carried.

D. A. Windsor moved that the party meet hereafter once a month, which was carried.

Mr. Windsor also hoped that the Republican Mass meeting, purposed to be held at Liberty Hall next night, would be announced.

Mr. Armstrong asked that a committee be appointed for the purpose of ascertaining the views of the candidates for the Legislature on the funding bill.

D. A. Windsor thought such action unnecessary, as Mr. A. would be certain to ask them himself if he was present.

Rudolph Massey moved that the platform of the party be submitted to the Executive Committee for any revision they might deem proper, which was carried.

On motion of D. A. Windsor, the meeting then adjourned.

IMPROVING.—In its account of an accident heretofore mentioned in the Gazette, the Lynchburg News of yesterday says: Mr. Fayette Ponton, a brakeman on the night passenger train of the Orange and Alexandria railroad, was seriously injured on Friday morning last, by accidentally falling from the train near Springfield station, nine miles south of Alexandria. The train was moving rapidly at the time, and he received ugly wounds about the head and face, and in different places about the body. He was not missed from the train until its arrival in Alexandria, but in the meantime he had been discovered by parties at Springfield, and properly cared for. He was brought to his home in Amherst on Saturday and we are glad to learn is now recovering from his injuries.

LIBERAL CONTRIBUTION.—One of our public spirited, and open hearted citizens, recognizing the meritorious work of the Young Men's Christian Association in this city, was waited upon yesterday afternoon by a committee of the Association, and solicited for a small contribution to sustain its operations. He cheerfully handed the committee a five dollar note, and this morning gave the Treasurer of the night school fund additionally, a check for \$20, remarking as he did so, that he esteemed it a very great pleasure to be able to assist so laudable and practical an effort to do good. Other gentlemen whose names, and liberality we are compelled to withhold responded, to the committee most freely, giving evidence that we are not a people to restrain our hands, whenever a suitable object for our assistance is presented.

CHURCH FESTIVAL.—The festival at Accokeek, Prince Georges county, Maryland, held yesterday for the benefit of the Episcopal Church at that place was very well attended, considering the inclement weather prevailing, and passed off in the most agreeable manner. Some of the music was furnished by amateurs from this city and received the merited applause of all who heard it. The Alexandrians who were present returned this morning on the steamer Fairy much pleased with their visit.

WEDDING.—The Hebrew Synagogue was crowded this evening with the friends and acquaintance of Miss Waterman, daughter of S. Waterman, esq., and Mr. Henry Scherbach, who were married there according to the rites of that church. In consequence of the strict number of pews in the church, no one was admitted without a ticket. The synagogue on all other occasions is open to the public.

CATTLE.—One hundred ear loads of cattle were brought here yesterday by the O. & A. R. R., the largest number ever before brought here in one day.

WASHINGTON AND OHIO RAILROAD WORKSHOPS.—Though not so extensive as the shops of the Orange, Alexandria and Manassas Railroad, those of the Washington and Ohio Railroad in this city are large enough to supply the requirements of that road, and are managed with that efficiency which secures the regularity with which the trains on that road are run.

The car shop in which, since the war, have been built all the cars—passenger, freight, stock, and material—used by the road, is under the control of Mr. Joshua Harrison, Master car builder, and the work turned out by him reflects just credit upon all the hands employed upon it. Indeed some of the passenger cars made there, have been pronounced by those who are competent to judge of such matters superior to similar work brought here from the north.

The machine shop is under the supervision of Mr. Cornelius Moore, an accomplished machinist, who learned his trade, with many other Alexandria boys, at the extensive works of Smith & Perkins, in this city, when they were in operation, and a glance at what is in progress there is sufficient to show that the place is filled by the right man. Mr. Moore has charge of the round house, also, and there, as in the machine shop, everything is conducted properly, the skilled hands under him doing all in their power to promote the smoothness with which the shops are managed.

The blacksmith shop is presided over by Mr. Isaac Smith, who with his assistants have just cause to be well satisfied with any work that bears the marks of their hammers.

The management of the paint shop is entrusted to Mr. J. A. Williams, and that he will fill that trust is attested by the style and finish of the painting on the cars owned by the company.

POLICE REPORT.—There were no cases of a criminal character at the Mayor's or at either of the Magistrate's offices this morning.

NIGHT REPORT.—Night rainy and mild. There were no disturbances in any quarter of the city, and the streets were even more quiet than usual. No burglars nor prisoners were at the station house.

POLITICAL.—A Radical meeting was held at Falls Church, in Fairfax county, on Saturday last, at which Mr. Gray, the Radical candidate for the county, and others, spoke. A Conservative meeting was expected to be held to-day, at Langley, which was to be addressed by Mr. Sangster, the Conservative candidate for the county.

SAREPTA HALL.—The new Sarepta Hall will be opened to-morrow night with a grand ball to be given by Sarepta Lodge of Odd Fellows. All arrangements have been completed, a large number of tickets have been disposed of already, and a delightful time is anticipated by all who intend to be present upon the occasion.

WASHINGTON & OHIO RAILROAD.—It is understood that the negotiations for raising the money necessary for the extension of the Washington & Ohio railroad to the coal fields, interrupted some time ago, have been resumed and with every probability of a successful termination.

THEORETICAL.—The report that none of the police force could be found on the morning of the late fire is